



The Curse Of Iniquitous Leadership In Kenya

The ancient Somali proverb, "When the rulers are immoral, what becomes of the people they rule?" reverberates through the annals of Kenya's contemporary history, casting a somber pall over the nation's trajectory. This axiomatic wisdom, born from the collective experiences of generations past, serves as a poignant reminder of the inextricable link between the moral fabric of a nation's leadership

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News>> Women Urged To Take Up Early Screening To Arrest Cervical Cancer

P. 8. Women have been urged to go for regular screening for cervical cancer to enable early detection of the disease and increase chances of survival.



News>> NGECC Commissioner Dr. Margaret Karungaru Visits Karatina Children's Home

P. 12. During The Visit, Dr Karungaru MBS Encouraged The Children To Believe In Themselves, In Their Abilities, Their Worth And Their Future

Gov't Seeks Return Of Cheap Beer To Ward Off Illicit Brews



The government is working on a model of reintroducing low-priced but healthy and affordable alcoholic drinks as one of the ways of eradicating illicit brew on the market.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua said that under the model, the government will also address taxation, which impedes production of cheaper but healthy brands. Mr Gachagua spoke yesterday in light of the ongoing government crackdown on illicit liquor manufacturers and sellers. He said talks are ongoing with a leading alcoholic beverages manufacturer over production of the low-priced beverage.



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua

STORY ON PAGE 9

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Rehabilitated Men Have A Chance At Growing Their Careers Through Prior Learning Certification

By:OSDP

Worth Noting:

- Kenya has approximately one million people employed by the Government, two million under the private sector, and the bulk of the population of about 15 million Kenyans depending on the informal sector to earn a living. This bulging population heavily depends on prior learning to make an income and the certification would increase their opportunity to get employment and establish their businesses.
- “When you are rehabilitated, the next stage is skills development in preparation for the job market, and also entrepreneurship. Then undergo an examination with NITA.”



The spouse of the Deputy President Pastor Dorcas Rigathi distributes food to thousands of widows at the Methodist Church in Meru County with more than 1,800 widows on Sunday. Photo/OSDP

Two days after the launch of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy was launched at the KICC, the spouse of the Deputy President shined a ray of hope in the lives of men undergoing rehabilitation in Meru, telling them how this policy would revive their careers.

Pastor Dorcas Rigathi told those undergoing rehabilitation at the St. Nicholas rehabilitation Centre that the RPL certification would recognize the different technical skills they learnt from their peers or family members.

Most of those in addiction in different parts of the country are experienced mechanics, masons, barbers and other technical courses learnt through observation, and also passed down to them by their family members or peers.

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and the bulk of the population of about 15 million Kenyans depending on the informal sector to earn a living. This bulging population heavily depends on prior learning to make an income and the certification would increase their opportunity to get employment and establish their businesses.

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“Those who already have different skills, they shall receive a certificate under prior learning. If you were taught mechanics by your father, you shall undergo a test, and receive a certificate depending on your level of competence. That certificate will assist you gain employment and earn an income,” said Pastor Dorcas.

The RPL Policy was launched by the

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua on Friday at the KICC.

DP Rigathi said the policy would allow formal certification of skills opening up a world of opportunities for the youth, jua kali artisans and millions of hustlers who form the bedrock of the country’s economy.

Pastor Dorcas was accompanied by Tigania West MP John Mutunga and Meru Woman Representative Elizabeth Kailemia.

“I can see your eyes are becoming brighter and brighter, and your smiles are also evidence of the changes you are undergoing. I know after rehabilitation you will be strong family men,” she told the men at the Rehab.

“Rehabilitation is a disease, and I will keep praying for you, and you will get out of addiction completely,” she added.

While in Meru, Pastor Dorcas was given

the title ‘Nkathé’ meaning a ‘noble woman’ for her selfless work with the vulnerable in the country.

She held a meeting with more than 1,800 widows at the Methodist Church in Meru, and encouraged them in their journey of widowhood, sharing her story of being raised by a widow against great odds.

Leaders who accompanied Pastor Dorcas for the widows meeting included MP Dr. John Mutunga and his wife, Meru County MP Elizabeth Kailemia, MP Rindikiri Mugambi (Buuri), MP Kirima Ngucine (Central Imenti), MP Dorothy Mukami (nominated), Majority Leader Meru County Assembly Evans Mawira, Area MCA Ken Naibea, NCIC Chairman Rev. Samuel Kobia and his wife, and the Chairperson of the Commission on Administrative Justice Florence Kajuju, among others.

Editor's Desk



The Mt. Kenya Times

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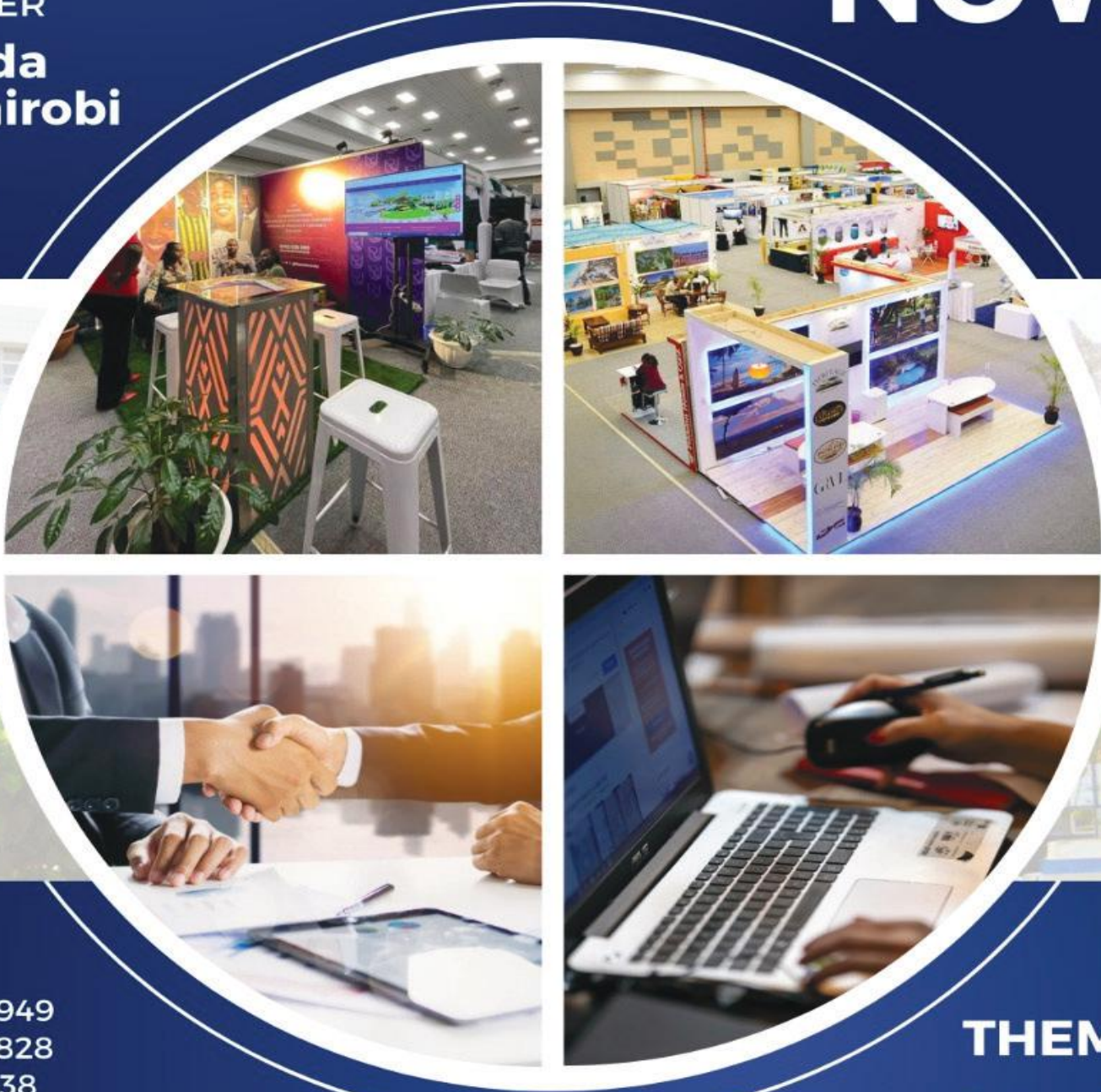
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NEWS IN BRIEF



As the Country makes efforts to redeem lost forest cover as a result of adverse effects of climate change, use of drones to plant trees may be the game changer and soon be part of a forester's toolkit. The use of the drone technology in reforestation as an initiative is being looked for and tested through environmental champions, agribusiness-oriented organisations, and the government in conservation efforts, to increase the country's forest cover and improve the agriculture sector.

Patricia Icharait and Dzoga Ndege from Ecowings are training young people how to operate drones and how they can be used for tree seeds planting. Through this technology, they seek to regenerate ecological diversity by seeding indigenous tree species as well as grass in pastoral areas and where forests have been destroyed. The idea, they say is to use this technology to plant seed balls and have this technology augment the other ways that tree planting is currently being done. They spoke at Lariak Forest in Laikipia County where they were demonstrating how drones can be used to increase the forest cover.



Kenya Forest Service (KFS) Kilifi office, in collaboration with the County Government of Kilifi, has committed to spearheading initiatives focused on tree planting, especially in arid areas. The initiatives seek to elevate the county's tree cover from the current 27.7% to 35% to significantly contribute to the national goal of planting 15 billion trees by 2032. Speaking during the celebration of International Forest Day at Kikambala area in Kilifi, Kilifi Forest Conservator Elvis Fondo emphasized the importance of commitment by citizens, urging every Kenyan to plant at least 30 trees annually to achieve the ambitious national target. As part of the commemoration, KFS distributed 3,000 tree seedlings to residents of Kikambala and encouraged them to capitalize on the ongoing long rainy season to maximize tree planting efforts.



In a determined effort to curb the spread of Tuberculosis (TB) and improve treatment outcomes, Taita Taveta County has ramped up its initiatives, leveraging collaboration and innovation, as highlighted during the World TB Day commemoration event at Wundanyi. Governor Andrew Mwadime emphasized the power of partnerships, stating, "Improved coordination and collaboration among partners in Taita Taveta has enabled us to enhance development and uptake of innovative tuberculosis diagnostic and treatment interventions, which are people-centred." He urged the residents to take advantage of the GeneXpert diagnostic test available at the Moi County Referral Hospital in Voi and in Taveta Hospital in determining their health status about TB infections as Kenya strives to prioritize interventions to reduce tuberculosis transmission and mortality in line with the goal, 'End Tuberculosis by 2030.' Deputy Governor Christine Kilalo echoed his sentiments, stressing the importance of prioritizing investments in TB prevention and control programs, particularly for marginalized populations and underserved communities. County Executive Committee Member for Health Services, Gifton Mkaya reiterated the county's efforts to combat stigmatization and discrimination associated with TB, especially concerning its link with HIV/AIDS.



President William Ruto is set to mark 100 years of TVET in Nyeri today. The Head of State will ignite the flame at Nyeri National Polytechnic near Nyeri town to kick off the commemoration organized by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with TVET stakeholders. The three-day celebration aims to honour TVET's century-long journey. The nationwide festivities, involving multiple agencies and stakeholders, will run from today to July 31st, with the main event scheduled to take place at Kabete National Polytechnic in Westlands constituency, Nairobi. Public and private TVET institutions, along with non-state actors are expected to participate. The primary objective is to reflect on TVET's evolution since 1924, assess achievements, and devise strategies to align it with national economic priorities, particularly the Bottom-up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA), to enhance employability and decent work. By Paul Wanjiru



Small scale maize farmers in parts of West Pokot County have appealed to the county government to consider increasing maize seed donations owing to the increased number of households in need of free farm inputs. While receiving maize seeds donated by the county government at Cheptuya Market in West Pokot Sub County over the weekend, the farmers said that due to the population increase, the residents are finding it challenging to afford certified maize seeds thus affecting food production in the area. They noted that despite the small farms, the maize produced by the small scale farmers greatly supplements food stocks thus making residents depend less on relief food. "Our major challenge in this location is that the human population has increased to an extent that those in need of seed donations are many. Majority cannot afford the cost of the certified seeds because it is a bit expensive," said Abraham Nameri. Nameri explained that there were no maize seeds distribution agents within the location forcing farmers to spend fortunes in travel costs which he argued can buy one 2kg packet of maize seeds which is uneconomical to a farmer wanting only one. He commended the county government under the leadership of Governor Simon Kachapin for coming up with the initiative of donating maize seeds to vulnerable families that have difficulties in acquiring essential farm inputs.

NEWS PAPER

IN BUSINESS



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Government Secures Sh39.3B To Roll Out Locally Led Climate Financing

By: Chris Mahandara
@themkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- “Our focus is on enhancing our national systems to ensure funds reach the most vulnerable individuals leveraging existing capacities to respond to shocks and evolving trends. Equally important is the flow of information and learning back to the national level enabling us to assess effective strategies and monitor our progress in bolstering resilience,” he said.
- The FLLoCA programme, he said, aims to promote cross agency collaboration and linkages spanning from the community level, national level and the international development agencies to effectively address climate change.

The government in collaboration with development partners has secured Sh39.3 billion to roll out a locally-led climate action financing programme.

Through the initiative dubbed Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FL-LoCA), the government targets to ensure climate finance reaches the most vulnerable communities who continue to bear the brunt of the devastating effects of climate change.

National Treasury and Economic Planning Cabinet Secretary Prof Njuguna Ndung'u said the programme to be implemented in 45 rural counties comes after a successful piloting of county level climate change funds which proved to be effective in fostering deeper understanding of climate change and identifying tailored solutions to mitigate the effects.

With support from the World Bank, Germany (KfW), Sweden, Denmark and the Netherlands, the government, he added, has set in motion the process of releasing the funds to the counties to roll out the programmes.

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Speaking in Kisumu during the launch of the initiative for 16 Lake Region



Cabinet Secretary for Treasury Prof. Njuguna Ndung'u

Economic Bloc (LREB) counties, the CS said lack of funds was the biggest hindrance to inclusive community development and adaptation to climate change pushing tens of millions at the grassroots into extreme poverty.

The LREB component of the FLLoCA programme funded by KfW Development Bank (Germany), he said aims to enhance the capacity of the 16 agro-ecological counties of Trans Nzoia, Elgeyo Marakwet, Bungoma, Uasin Gishu, Busia, Kakamega, Nandi, Siaya, Vihiga, Kisumu, Kericho, Homa Bay, Nyamira, Migori, Kisii to decentralise climate finance and fos-

ter local resilience at the ward level to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change effectively.

Speaking during the same occasion, Environment and Natural Resources Cabinet Secretary (CS) Soipan Tuya lauded the support from development partners saying it would go a long way in addressing gaps in climate change adaptation and mitigation in the country.

Lack of resources, she said, was a big challenge adding that the country required Sh. 62 billion annually to roll out climate mitigation programmes and up to Sh170 billion to implement

the long term strategy.

The CS said each county was expected to select one ecosystem to focus on and showcase the design of FLLoCA as the program rolls out.

He challenged governors to build on the existing structures while rolling out the programme to ensure it is successful.

“We must build on the existing structure and make use of the County Environment Committees, County Climate Change Committees and Ward Climate Change Committees to roll out the program to enhance efficiency and reduce duplication,” she said.

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Women Urged To Take Up Early Screening To Arrest Cervical Cancer

By: Bethsheba Abuya
@themtkenyatimes



Dr Mary Wangai addressing health journalists yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- “Cancer of the cervix is the leading cause of deaths (among various cancer types) in the country yet it is the most preventable type of cancer since it takes 10-15 years for it to fully manifest in the body,” explained Dr Wangai.
- She pointed out that cervical cancer has no noticeable symptoms and all women are at risk of getting the disease although women between the ages of 35-49 are highly exposed to an increased probability to be infected for they are sexually active.
- “Cervical Cancer can be prevented through early detection and timely treatment because the trend can be reversed given that the disease takes up to 15 years to be full blown,” said Dr Wangai.

Chief Justice Martha Koome yesterday presided over the swearing-in of Winfridah Mokaya as the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary at the Supreme Court in Nairobi.

Speaking during the occasion, Koome observed that the transition provides an opportunity for reflection about where the Judiciary is coming from and where it aims to go. She also urged Mokaya to be a champion of institutional innovation and revitalization, steering the judiciary towards remaining fit for purpose and effective in a changing environment.

The CJ noted that the office of Chief Registrar of the Judiciary is designed

to be the chief administrator and accounting officer in the Judiciary, adding that the total implications of the roles bestowed on Mokaya is that she is expected to play a significant role in ensuring that the administrative and operational dynamics move seamlessly to provide an enabling and supportive environment for the judicial wing to perform its function in a conducive environment that guarantees high standards of service delivery.

“The essence of success in the new role lies in preserving the exemplary practices of the past while striving for continuous improvement in our

administrative processes and responsiveness to the citizens we serve,” stated Koome.

She maintained that the Judiciary is ready to support and looks forward to collaborative efforts in pursuit of the shared vision which has been outlined in the institutional blueprint ‘Social Transformation through Access to Justice (STAJ).

Koome observed that Mokaya assumes office at a time when the judiciary has embraced the spirit of shared leadership under STAJ, and in the quest for court excellence, the judiciary has also embraced the idea of a shared responsibility to ensure



Judy Wanyoike, a 2012 cancer survivor, shares her journey on cervical cancer and how she successfully pulled through it.

excellence in the areas of assignment which contribute to the overall service delivery.

Additionally, she stressed that the Oath will require the new Chief Registrar to serve the country to the best of her abilities insisting that the responsibilities placed upon her will also guide her on the day-to-day work.

Mokaya said her vision ‘The Road Ahead’ is now clearly laid out in the STAJ’s vision that was launched in 2021 followed by the Blueprint launched in November 2023 by the CJ and advocates for a people-centred approach in the administration of justice.

She termed them giants of the judiciary upon which they stand to make a commitment to serve the institution and the people of Kenya.

Further, the new Chief Registrar highlighted that she will start her role by cascading the blueprint to cultivate deeper understanding and ownership of the vision and blueprint across the judiciary, push for law reforms to address the emerging gaps in the administration of the Judiciary Fund, engage with stakeholders on the funding of access to justice as a public good, enhance resource and asset management, streamline policy to results cycle and re-image institutional administrative model to better align with the ideals of shared leadership and constitutional value of decentralization.

Further, Mokaya reiterated her commitment to pursue 100 per cent funding by the government for access to justice, to mirror support provided to the security sector, emphasizing that the funding the Judiciary is seeking is reasonable, and should be administered as a public good.

She at the same time said that the office will embrace a clear, deliberate and robust open-door policy in engaging with internal and external stakeholders including the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association, Kenya Judges Welfare Association, Kenya Judiciary Staff Association and the Kenya Chapter of the International Association of the Women Judges.

“I look forward to your support in ensuring that we live the ideals of the Constitution in the discharge of the Judiciary’s mandate to the Kenyan people,” she expressed.

Mokaya, who joined the Judiciary 27 years ago as a District Magistrate will serve as the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary for a period of five years.

Government Seeks Return Of Cheap Beer To Ward Off Illicit Brews

By: DPCS



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua with Kameme TV and FM presenters yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- “We have asked the manufacturer to start a cheap, healthy and affordable alcoholic drink. We will address the taxation issue. The main problem is on the portable spirits, whose alcohol level is extremely high and toxic which have ruined families. As a government we have a responsibility to eradicate the illicit brews,” said the DP.
- Speaking during an interview at vernacular stations Kameme TV and Kameme FM, Mr Gachagua explained that the ongoing fight is targeting manufacturers and sellers of the illicit and illegal brews.
- The Deputy President highlighted the government’s achievements and the ongoing efforts to turn-around the economy.

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Mr Gachagua spoke yesterday in light of the ongoing government crackdown on illicit liquor manufacturers and sellers. He said talks are ongoing with a leading alcoholic beverages manufacturer over production of the low-priced beverage.

“We have asked the manufacturer to start a cheap, healthy and affordable alcoholic drink. We will address the taxation issue. The main problem is on the portable spirits, whose alcohol level is extremely high and toxic- which have ruined families. As a government we have a responsibility to eradicate the illicit brews,” said the DP.

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The Deputy President highlighted the government’s achievements and the ongoing efforts to turn-around the economy.

“Legit businesses will not be affected by the crackdown. Bar owners must unite and work with the government in eradicating the rogue traders and manufacturers produc-

ing the killer drinks. Instead of rushing to court to fight the crackdown, the bar owners should establish an organization to eradicate the rogue traders amongst them,” he said.

He added: “Bar owners must stop claiming that the government is fighting their businesses. They should assist the government eradicate illicit drinks as they have also destroyed their businesses. We are not fighting legitimate businesses because the Ruto Administration supports genuine enterprises,” he stated.

He said the Government will not allow unscrupulous traders to kill people.

“Greed and overnight chase for accumulation of wealth led us into this menace. Let us be reasonable and responsible towards wealth creation. We will do whatever we can to win the war. The illicit brews have ruined families and killed young people,” he said.

He also urged governors to open rehabilitation wards in Level Four hospitals to treat addicts of alcoholism.

On the political situation in the country, the Deputy President said he supports the report of the National Dialogue Committee (NADCO) report and its recommendations.

“The report is good. Initially I had discomfort with it but after being convinced by President William Ruto I support it. The recommendations such as reconstitution of the electoral commission, return of the official leader of opposition and en-

trenching the position of Prime Cabinet Secretary in the Constitution are good for the country,” he said.

On the principle of ‘one man, one vote, and one shilling’, the Deputy President said the issue will be addressed even if it is not in the NADCO report.

“The ‘one man, one vote, and one shilling’ formula of sharing resources will be addressed even if it is not in the NADCO report. The formula is for fair distribution of resources based on numerical strength. In the national government we have good representation,” he said.

Regarding the forthcoming delimitation of boundaries, Mr Gachagua assured Mt Kenya residents that no constituency will be scrapped over population quota. Instead, he said

Mt Kenya deserves additional constituencies.

He cited areas like Kiharu and Ki- ni deserve sub-division because they are vast while others like Ruiru and Thika deserve sub-division because they are highly populated.

On the agriculture sector, the Deputy President said the reforms in the coffee, tea, macadamia and avocado sub-sectors were bearing fruit.

Farmers earnings have increased since the Ruto Administration came to power, he said.

“Coffee farmers through their co-operatives can now access the direct sales,” said the Deputy President.

He added that the government is also turning focus on the revival of the pyrethrum subsector.



A composite image of DP Rigathi Gachagua and Mama Ngina Kenyatta.

Government Cracks Down: 18,650 Illicit Liquor Establishments Closed in Ongoing Battle Against Drugs

By: Elizabeth Angira
@themkenyetimes

Government authorities have taken decisive action in the ongoing battle against illicit liquor and narcotic drugs, with 18,650 liquor establishments shut down.

Of these closures, 6,500 had valid licenses but were found to violate the Alcoholics Control Act, while the remaining 12,150 were operating without licenses.

Additionally, 14 distilleries operating unlawfully have been closed, and their equipment destroyed.

Interior Cabinet Secretary Professor Kithure Kindiki emphasized the government's commitment to permanently eradicating this menace by firmly enforcing the law.

He stressed the detrimental impact of poisonous drinks and drugs on Kenya's population, particularly the youth, leading to decreased productivity and increased crime rates.

During his visit to Kisii Main Prison, Professor Kindiki urged Kenyans, especially the youth, to pursue produc-

tive activities instead of succumbing to substance abuse.

He dismissed joblessness as an excuse for engaging in destructive behavior and highlighted the importance of individuals contributing positively to society.

In the ongoing crackdown, 95 suspects have been arrested in Kisii, with authorities seizing 40,000 liters of illicit drinks and destroying illegal breweries and premises.

Professor Kindiki also addressed political intolerance in Kisii, warning those inciting violence that they will face legal consequences regardless of their political affiliations.

He announced progress in investigations into political violence, pledged to arrest, and prosecute individuals responsible for inciting or financing such activities.

Furthermore, plans to relocate Kisii Main Prison to Nyanturago area in Nyaribari Chache Constituency are underway to facilitate the expansion of Kisii town.

"The relocation of the prison will allow urban planning to accommodate other strategic National and County government projects suitable for loca-



CS Interior Prof Kithure Kindiki during the inspection of Kisii Main Prisons. Photo/Elizabeth Angira

tion at the town center "said Prof Kindiki.

The decision to relocate the prison was made to free up land for Kisii

town's development following President William Ruto's ascent to power.

Professor Kindiki called for cooperation between the national and county

governments to ensure a smooth transition.

The Kaaba



By: Kholturayeva Ugiloy Urol
@themkenyetimes

The Kaaba (Arabic: **كعبة** al-kaaba) is a cube-shaped building located inside the Masjid al-Haram in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. The mosque was originally built around the Kaaba. The Kaaba is the holiest place in the Islamic world. The Qibla, the place Muslims face during prayer, is the Ka'bah. Hajj and Umrah performed by Muslims are performed around the Kaaba. The area of the Al-Haram mosque, including the Kaaba, is 193,000 square meters. The mosque can accommodate 130,000 Muslims at the same time. There have been several disappointments during the Hajj prayer season, when people gather. With the

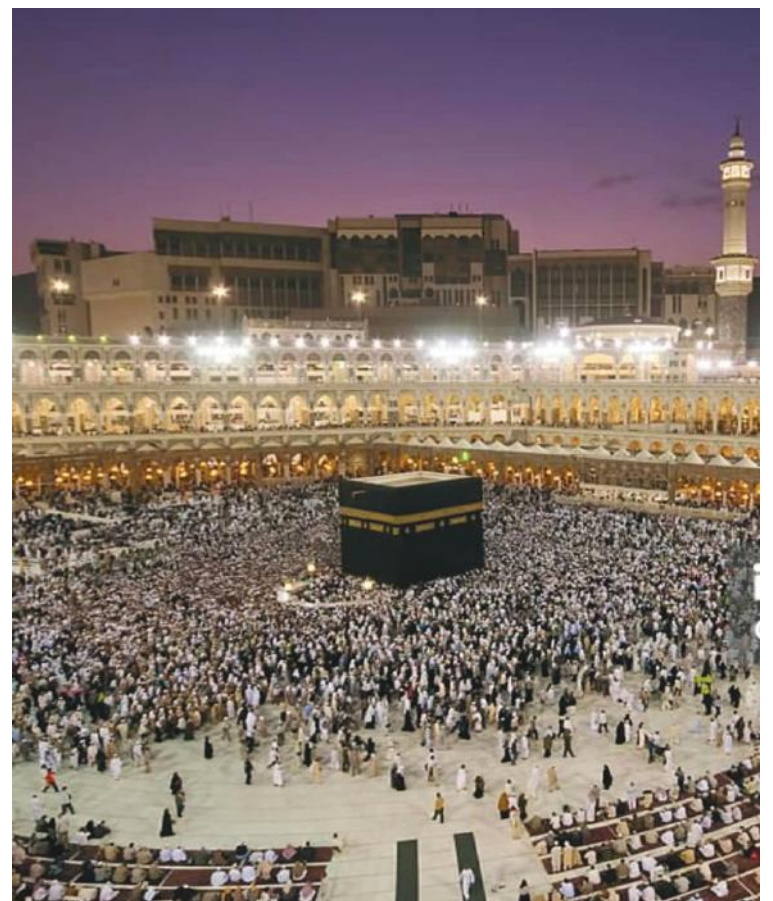
passage of time, the acts of pilgrimage are being performed under a strong order. The Black Stone is located in one corner of the Kaaba. Tawaf is performed around the Kaaba during Hajj. The Ka'bah serves as the Qiblah for Muslims around the world during prayer. The Kaaba has been reconstructed from 5 to 12 times. According to Muslim narrations, it is said that the Kaaba was built by Adam Alayhissalam, peace be upon him. According to the Qur'an, the Kaaba was founded by Ibrahim, peace be upon him. According to the Qur'an, the Kaaba is the first structure built by mankind to worship Allah. Ka'ba (Arabic - cube) is the holiest temple of Islam, the main place of worship of Muslim in Mecca, Saudi Arabia. It is also called Baytul Haram (Holy House), Baytullah (House of God). Visiting him is one of the main acts of Hajj and Umrah.

The Kaaba was considered a sacred temple of Arab tribes even before Islam, where 360 dates of tribal gods were kept. Every year, Arab tribes come to the Kaaba to perform Hajj. The custom of Hajj was later transferred to Islam.

The Kaaba became the most important center and a symbol of unity of the Muslims of the whole world, and it still

is. All sects of Islam recognize its sanctity and special role. Every year, Muslims from all over the world come here to perform Hajj and circumambulate the Kaaba. May the Tawaf of the Kaaba be a blessing to everyone, In Shaa Allah. When you get this happiness, a fire burns inside you. You can't even imagine it. Your heart starts beating because you are standing in the house of God. It is said that if someone dies next to Ka'batullah, that is, if Allah takes his life, he will immediately enter Jannat, Allah bless him. God knows! May all of us be blessed with the act of circumambulating Ka'batullah!

[Kholturayeva Ugiloy daughter of Urol]



Illicit Brew War: Was Gachagua Using It To Settle Political Scores With Ndindi Nyoro



By: Joseph Mutua Ndonga
mutuandongaa@yahoo.com



Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro.

Worth Noting:

- The message he wanted to send across to the people of Kiharu is that their MP had abandoned them. This is in regard to the war against illicit brews.
- But this political card would not bear the fruits. The people of Kiharu knew their MP was in fore front of fighting the second generation illicit brews.
- They were also aware that the DP was feeling the political heat triggered by honorable Ndindi Nyoro's perceived declaration of his readiness to square it with him for the Mount Kenya kingpin. The MP is yet to declare in public his bid.
- It is worth noting Deputy President visited Kiharu just a few days after claiming that the young leaders from Mount Kenya were furthering the course of the outsiders opposed to the unity of our region.

A day after Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua visited an elderly woman, 85, in Kiharu, the mother of seven children who had allegedly died after consuming illicit brews, I had a chat with a friend of mine.

He told me the DP had gone there to shed crocodile tears.

The visit had nothing to do with the pain that this elderly woman and her family was going through if it is true she had lost seven sons to poisonous alcohol.

Similar deaths were also being reported in his backyard of Nyeri. How come the DP was not amplifying these incidences?

One does not need to be a rocket scientist to know the DP was harboring serious grudges with honorable Ndindi Nyoro. This is because of the latter's decision to throw his hat in the ring in the supremacy battle for Mount Kenya kingpin.

While considering himself as the senior-most politician from the region, Gachagua thought that this seat is reserved for him. He did not expect a formidable candidate to emerge.

This explains why he was burning midnight oil in a bid to tame the Kiharu MP. The visit was therefore meant to settle political scores with him.

The message he wanted to send across to the people of Kiharu is that their MP had abandoned them. This is in regard to the war against illicit brews.

But this political card would not bear the fruits. The people of Kiharu knew their MP was in fore front of fighting the second generation illicit brews.

They were also aware that the DP was feeling the political heat triggered by honorable Ndindi Nyoro's perceived declaration of his readiness to square it with him for the Mount Kenya kingpin. The MP is yet to declare in public his bid.

It is worth noting Deputy President visited Kiharu just a few days after claiming that the young leaders from Mount Kenya were furthering the course of the

outsiders opposed to the unity of our region.

He is yet to provide an iota of evidence to prove his claims.

Listen to this. We cannot allow them to take us back to the period between 1992 to 2002 when we stayed outside the government. This happened because we were divided and we were not talking in one voice.

Our region was deserted in terms of development.

We know Gachagua was holding a senior position (a special DO) in then government of President Daniel Arap Moi. Can he tell us the role he played? Many Kikuyus would recall. He never played the role of uniting us. He instead helped President Moi to profile and divide our community and at no time did he ever faulted Moi for abandoning the region.

The DP made his claims at a time when the Kiharu MP was visiting different parts of the country after being invited by local leaders to launch development projects, deliver messages of peace and unity and articulate and disseminate the policies of the national government.

The local leaders would take this opportunity to shower him with praises.

Ndindi Nyoro is a presidential material.

Some would aver he is poised to take the mantle of Mount Kenya kingpin and later become the President of the Republic of Kenya. He stands a high chance of succeeding President William Ruto in 2032 when he completes his second and final term.

In trying to contain him, the media reports indicated the DP had escalated this matter to State House. Did President William Ruto have a hand in Ndindi's bid? The answer is a big No. There was no evidence to support these claims.

During his recent three-day of the Kikuyu land, President Ruto once proved wrong his critics.

He steered clear of local politics and concentrated on development matters.

In so doing, he once again demonstrated his commitment to walk the walk.

This is by focusing on fulfilling the promises he had made during the campaigns.

Earlier, Ndindi Nyoro's campaign took a new turn when Ndindi hosted more than 20 Kenya Kwanza members of parliament drawn from different parts of the country in his Kiharu constituency.

DP Gachagua later visited Muranga County. He was accompanied by 117 members of parliament (MPs) during a fundraiser in Kigumo. I heard people particularly Kikuyus claiming that he had 'hired' these MPs.

Back to Kiharu, the MPs attended the education event on their own volition. Speaker after speaker showered him with accolades. Ndindi's track record on matters of development, peace and unity speaks for itself.

Former Secretary General of KNUT and ODM nominated MP Wilson Sossian set the ball rolling. He noted that Ndindi was a presidential material.

I want to assure you the people of Muranga that Ndindi was poised to succeed President Ruto in 2032 when he completes his second term in office. You can take this to the bank.

For President Ruto, this is not the first time that his name would be dragged into premature 2032 succession politics.

Sometimes back Kakamega senator Bonny Khalwale had made similar claims. This happened during Dr Ruto's visit to the region.

He alleged that President Ruto had held a closed door meeting with the leaders of Mulembe nation at Kakamega State Lodge. We managed to convince him to support the candidature of ANC leader Musalia Mudavadi in 2032.

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua is not suitable for the position of the President. We want to tell him to forget it. President Ruto will pass the baton to Mudavadi, Khalwale added.

But in a swift rejoinder, Dr Ruto dismissed and denounced his remarks. It is premature and too early to talk about 2032 succession. We are here to launch and commission development projects. This is in line with promises we made during the campaigns.

I'm not holding brief for the President but I'm sure he holds the same his position. This is regard to Ndindi's political game plan for the Mount Kenya region.

Well, DP Gachagua curves a niche of being a truthful and a God-fearing man. So, with due respect, I want to let him know this.

Majority of Kikuyu do not believe in him. To drive the point home, they would revisit his previous utterances and history.

You heard him likening Kenya to Shareholding Company. This was a reckless statement. They would also fault him for picking a war with Nairobi governor Johnson Sakaja. His statement was divisive, callous and designed to put the Kikuyus into a collision course with rest of the Kenyan communities.

Nairobi is the home to all the 45 communities of Kenya.

Others would allege that Gachagua was only considering his home county of Nyeri for state appointments.

Some would recall the alleged 'ills' associated with him when he served as a 'special' District Officer (DO) during the era of President Daniel Arap Moi.

It is also worth noting that Gachagua was not the preferred choice of the majority of the United Democratic Alliance (UDA) leaders from the Mountain for the position of the running mate. The final decision however lied with presidential candidate William Ruto. He settled on him.

Given this scenario, one would have expected Gachagua to immediately start healing the wounds after being sworn in as DP. It is widely believed that one year down the line he has failed to do this.

The Kikuyus rooting for Kiharu MP Ndindi Nyoro to lead the Mountain would further cite the following reasons.

Apart from being youthful and well educated, he is a development conscious leader and a unifier.

Besides, he has never been implicated in corruption or any other wrong-doing. Ndindi's track record of development in Kiharu is there for all to see.

The MPs and other elected leaders are travelling there for bench-marking.

The other day a renowned opinion poll firm rated him as the best performer in the country. This is on matters of development.

Matters of education are close to his heart. Ndindi have done a lot in terms of building new state-of-art classrooms and renovating the old ones.

He has also been spending part of money he receives from National Exchequer to build TVET colleges.

National Government-Constituency Development Fund (NG-CDF) is one of the kitties.

He moved a step further when he initiated a school feeding programme for the students in all day secondary schools in Kiharu constituency.

Again, dozens of MPs from across the country attended this event.

Ndindi has demonstrated he is a servant of the people.

This places him as the best-suited to take up the mantle of Mount Kenya kingpin.

Ndindi steered clear of this topic.

In this, the NG-CDF funds will cater for the school fees of the students in day schools in Kiharu. The parents will only pay Sh1,000 per term.

As a pioneer, we have been inviting him to come to our regions to help us rollout similar projects. He is still ahead of us.

What lesson do we learn here? Besides steering Mount Kenya to success and prosperity, he has the qualities of a national leader.

Joseph Mutua Ndonga Is A Writer And Political Analyst Based In Nairobi

NGEC Commissioner Dr. Margaret Karungaru Visits Karatina Children's Home

During The Visit, Dr Karungaru MBS Encouraged The Children To Believe In Themselves, In Their Abilities, Their Worth And Their Future

By: MKT Reporter
 @themtkenyatimes

Worth Noting:

- Karatina Children's Home is a County Government of Nyeri initiative under the department of Gender, Youth, Sports and Social Services whose main mission is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children facing challenging circumstances. The county government fully sponsors the children by providing accommodation, food, clothing, education, health and parental care among other needs.
- This is in an effort to help the children heal, grow, thrive and attain their optimum potential in life. The home has sixty five children, thirty two boys and thirty three who are in various learning institutions like University, Vocational Centres, Secondary, Primary and Pre-primary levels.



NGEC Commissioner Dr Margaret Karungaru MBS presenting a document to Nyeri County Director of Social Services Monica Thumbi at Karatina Children's Home yesterday

A Commissioner with National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) Dr Margaret Karungaru has urged Kenyans to help children achieve their highest potential. The Commissioner called upon the community to realise that each child is incredibly special, has a unique story and purpose, and that their dreams are valid and achievable. She pointed out that it's important to add value and assist the children realise their full potential, by among others embracing the fact that the each child is abled differently and have diverse potential. Dr Karungaru made the observation during her visit to Karatina Children's

home in Mathira constituency. Karatina Children's Home is a County Government of Nyeri initiative under the department of Gender, Youth, Sports and Social Services whose main mission is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children facing challenging circumstances. The county government fully sponsors the children by providing accommodation, food, clothing, education, health and parental care among other needs. This is in an effort to help the children heal, grow, thrive and attain their optimum potential in life. The home has sixty five children, thirty two boys and thirty three who are in

various learning institutions like University, Vocational Centres, Secondary, Primary and Pre-primary levels. During her visit, Dr. Karungaru acknowledged and appreciated the local governments for the great initiative, dedication and the allocation of resources to ensure the wellbeing of the vulnerable children at the home which has resulted in positive and immeasurable impact. She also thanked the staff, volunteers, and all those who work tirelessly to provide a loving and supportive environment for the wonderful children. She encouraged the children to believe in themselves, in their abilities,

their worth, and their future. "You are capable of greatness, and I have no doubt that each of you has the potential to make a positive impact on the world," she advised. Dr. Karungaru presented a guideline booklets to the County Government of Nyeri through the Department of Gender, Youth, Sports and Social Services; Among the key highlights in the book is a report of emerging perception on the boy child in gender equality agenda and National monitoring and evaluation framework towards the prevention of and response to gender Based violence in Kenya. The commissioner noted that those tools will guide towards addressing thematic areas on male inclusion and engagement and prevention and response to Gender Based Violence. The Director Social Services at the County Government Monica Thumbi who alongside the home's management hosted the commissioner noted that education is a powerful tool that can unlock countless doors of opportunity. She encouraged the children to embrace learning, to be curious, and to never stop growing. "Your potential is limitless, and with hard work and determination, you can achieve anything you set your mind to," she told them. Thumbi further reiterated the County Government's commitment in ensuring that every child in the home gets the opportunities they deserve. We are working hard to improve access to quality education, healthcare, and support systems for all our children. "Your well-being and success are a top priority for our administration," She noted.

The Director thanked Dr. Karungaru for finding time to visit the home, her consideration, support and partnership. "We as Karatina Children's Home community are truly honoured and grateful; our hearts are filled with hope and gratitude. Together, we can create a brighter future for all our Children. Once again, thank you so very much," she concluded. Also present were, Isaac Wanyaga, Social Welfare Officer, Mathira East and West Sub-Counties, Leah Mbatha-Mother In-charge, staffs and the children.

Nyandarua Boarding School Alumni Gives Back With Sh70 Million Digital Library

By: Suleiman Mbatiah

@themkenyentimes

An alumni association has launched an initiative to establish a state-of-the-art digital library at the school, aiming to provide high-quality resources and educational opportunities in Laikipia and Nyandarua counties.

The Nyandarua Boarding Primary School Alumni Association is ambitiously seeking support, aiming to raise over Ksh70 million from its members, current students, and well-wishers to turn this dream into a reality.

According to Jacob Mugeni, the chairperson of the association, the NBPS Digital Library project will align the region with the government's efforts to enhance digital skills and drive grassroots innovation.

"I am proud to witness the growth of the alumni community throughout the past 13 years. This visionary project will offer endless opportunities for thousands of students and the local community," he stated.

The association was formed and launched in 2010 and has been undertaking various educational projects, among them paying fees for needy but bright students.

The NBPS Digital Library, he added, is designed to provide top-quality educational tools and resources for students and the community, ensuring their success in the digital era.

The school's headteacher, Mr. Charles Mbugua, recognized and emphasized the importance of integrating a digital library into the school's infrastructure to enhance the educational landscape.

"With its wide range of resources and accessibility, a digital library surpasses physical limitations, offering students limitless opportunities for learning and exploration," he asserted.

Mr. Mbugua further noted that embracing this modern approach to education would not only empower his students with invaluable knowledge but also equip them with the essential skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly competitive digital world.

The project lead, Miss Magdalene Wanjugu, expressed her unwavering



An artistic impression of the proposed NBPS Digital Library..

dedication to ensuring that every aspect of the project is meticulously executed, paving the way for its timely completion.

"There is no doubt that the digital library project will be delivered on schedule, ushering in a new era of

educational excellence for our school community and beyond," she assured.

She stated that her strong commitment to excellence, combined with the headteacher's exemplary leadership skills, has instilled confidence

in the alumni association, teachers, community, and stakeholders.

The students, themselves, were filled with joy as they eagerly anticipated the transformative impact of the digital library initiative, a notable shift in their learning experience.

The Mt. Kenya Times



I Miss You More Than Missing



I miss you more than missing,
Please, donate me your love .
When you come, happiness will spread,
I love you more than love .

How many people know, are eager to
watch .
you are only person that I like so much .
My tears flow like a river from longing,
I love you more than love .

My face is sad from the pain of not
having you,

I lost myself without you there .
I'll say sentence sincerely in my heart :
I love you more than love .

I have no strength left to say anything,
Think about coming back to me .
Understand, I can't stand to live without
you,
I love you more than love .

Mother's love is in my heart,
I follow your path know as my sun.
I invited you to come to me
I love you more than love .

👉 Nigora Yo'ldasheva

Yoldasheva Nigora was born on May
29, 1999 in Yangiurgan district of
Namangan region. Alfarganus University
Faculty of Pedagogy, Psychology, 1st
year student.

My Father's Stamina Breaking Life



Every word has meaning, every word has
Science
Mekhir's fountain incense khayot
Bexuda aghritma aging Lake
My father's stamina does not break
Khayot
Give me a mile to their dardin
Riding the horse of anxiety khayot
Uzi late realized my father's Destiny
My father's stamina does not break
Khayot

Will the wrinkles on the face not go away
now
Can not a single sweet word now
I wish I could find chorasin
Never let my father grow old so quickly.
Kurina started white in her hair
Felt even tremors in the hands
Miliga autumn kurmas clearer
Do not break my father's heart.
He didn't get a one-dice chop
Think of us even still
I ask God, I ask every moment
Do not bend my father's Cook Khayot.
Fist-like heart while beating my baby
Rich_united state
Never touch the Earth kuragi
My father's good luck is Khayot.

Anorov Sirojiddin was born on January 18,
2006 in the Namangandan Region of the
Republic of Uzbekistan. Currently, he is an
11th grade student of school No. 14.

Spring



The sun is out of the blue ,
Increases warmth gradually.
Feeling the breath of spring,
Winter hides the ornament.

The grass raised with its head ,
Thrive flowers and gardens .
Every moment of my love ,
Reminds me of my youth .

Over the floor again ,
Life seems to begin again .
Every year , the season of love
The world will be born again.

Beauty and elegance,
The season of love is unique .
Any gibes ti ice the heart,
Spring gives warm .

Abdumo'minov Ahror was born on
March 9 , 2005 in Uzun district of
Surkhandar'ya region which is located
in Uzbekistan . He has been living in
Tashkent for 15 years . He graduated
from the 131st Idum in Tashkent in 2023.
Currently , he is a student of Alfarganus
University , Faculty of Tourism . He is a
member of the luckiest intellectual team
of the year at the university.

My Dad's Smile!



He never reveals his pain ,
Keeps it inside so that we don't get
crushed .
When my dad laughs , the world lights up ,
I love my dad's smile so much!

My only first love in the world ,
I would give my life for your smile.
I love and enjoy when you laugh ,
I love my dad's smile so much!

Polatova Shahrizoda daughter of Il'josjon
was born on January 11, 2010 in Jomboy
district of Samarkand region of the
Republic Uzbekistan .She studies at the
20th general education school.
Interest: To be a journalist .
My goal: to become a teacher

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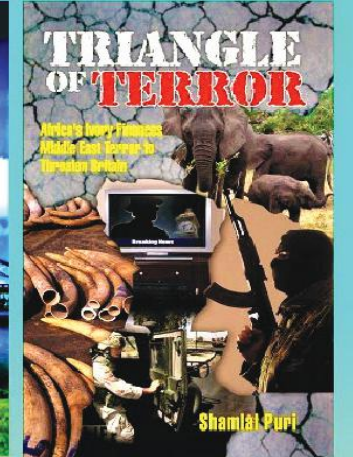
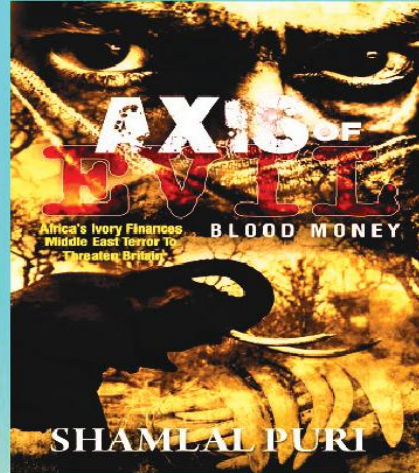
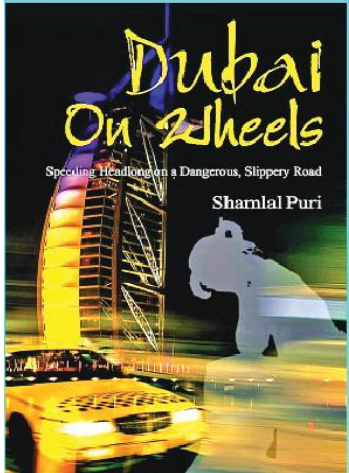
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BUSINESS

I&M Group PLC delivers 20% Revenue and 15% Profit After Tax Growth

By: Business Reporter
@themtkenyatimes

I&M Group PLC has recorded a Profit After Tax of KES 13.3 billion for the year ended 31st December 2023.

The regional financial services provider with operations in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Mauritius, attributed the 15% growth in its profits to an increase in its operating income.

In the context of the Group's strategic focus, the 2023 performance is a clear affirmation that the iMara2.0 strategy which came to an end in 2023 after a threeyear period, has delivered remarkable year-on-year results. The focus on delivering the iMara2.0 strategy over the past three years has seen Return on Equity grow from 10% in 2020 to 15% in 2023. Operating income grew by 20% from KES 36 billion in the previous year to KES 43 billion with 20% of this revenue coming from new strategic initiatives during this phase.

Key Financial Performance Highlights

During the period under review, the Group's balance sheet and income metrics improved with the liquidity and capital ratios remaining strong.

2023 Balance sheet highlights

- The Group's balance sheet grew steadily with Total Assets increasing by KES 142 billion to KES 580 billion.

- The loan portfolio grew by 30% to KES 311 billion partly attributed to the extension of retail lending through the Bank's digital platforms with a net nonperforming loan ratio at 5% as of 31st December 2023.

- Customer deposits closed at KES 417 billion, recording a 33% increase year-on-year, largely attributed to growth in CASA (Current Accounts and Savings Accounts).

Income statement highlights

- Growth in Operating Income was driven by a 25% increase in Net Interest Income on the back of rising interest rates and a 10% growth in Non-Interest Income for the period under review. The Non-Interest income growth is attributed to growth in income from banking transactions and foreign exchange trading.

- The Group's operating expenses, exclusive of loan loss provisions, rose by 26% year-on-year to close at KES 20 billion on account of branch expansion, inflationary pressures and as a result of increased investment in staff and technology.

Worth Noting:

- Growth in Operating Income was driven by a 25% increase in Net Interest Income on the back of rising interest rates and a 10% growth in Non-Interest Income for the period under review. The Non-Interest income growth is attributed to growth in income from banking transactions and foreign exchange trading.
- The Group's operating expenses, exclusive of loan loss provisions rose by 26% year-on-year to close at KES 20 billion on account of branch expansion, inflationary pressures and as a result of increased investment in staff and technology.
- The Group's share of profit from its joint venture in Mauritius, Bank One Limited recorded a year-on-year growth of 82% to close at KES 1.2 billion.



I & M Group PLC Regional CEO Kihara Maina gives an address during the I & M Group PLC FY2023 Results Release at Radisson Blu Hotel.

visions rose by 26% year-on-year to close at KES 20 billion on account of branch expansion, inflationary pressures and as a result of increased investment in staff and technology.

- The Group's share of profit from its joint venture in Mauritius, Bank One Limited recorded a year-on-year growth of 82% to close at KES 1.2 billion.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Kihara Maina, I&M Group PLC, Regional CEO noted: "Building upon the success of our recently concluded iMara 2.0 strategy, we have witnessed remarkable achievements in both profitability and growth in our various business units. As we venture into the next chapter with our iMara 3.0 strategy, our primary aim is to sustain the growth through continued focus on enhancing our digital solutions platforms and building an ecosystem to support our customers' businesses, as we seek to become Eastern Africa's Leading Financial Partner for Growth."

I&M Bank Kenya

I&M Bank Kenya posted an operating income growth of 14% year on year, 7% increase in operating profit and a 1% drop in Profit Before Tax, due to higher loan loss provisions.

In the prior year, the successful implementation of our strategy resulted in significant growth in new customers, deposits, primarily Current and Savings Accounts (CASA), and customer loans. Additionally, through relevant product innovation and brand building, brand awareness

grew from 5% to 20%.

As part of the strategy, the Bank has also seen a significant growth in the adoption of its digital services, with 93% of customers being digitally active.

Commenting on I&M Bank Kenya's performance, I&M Bank's CEO Mr. Gul Khan said: "Throughout the year, our primary focus was on delivering new and relevant financial solutions designed to solve problems for Kenyans which resulted in a 27% increase in our total customers and over 100% increase in digital transactions. We saw significant growth driven by innovative solutions such as the ongoing Ni Sare Kabisa free transfers to M-PESA and Airtel Money and the largest unsecured personal loan of up to KES 10 million. Our commitment to customer-centricity remains firm, as evidenced by our countrywide branch expansion which has seen us open 8 branches, with plans to open 12 more, to be closer to our customers. Furthermore, we will continue to launch new and relevant solutions for our customers as we celebrate 50 years of I&M Bank in Kenya."

Regional growth

The Group's regional subsidiaries continued to show steady growth, contributing 24% to the Group's overall profitability. For the period ending 31st December 2023, 78% of I&M Group customers across the region were digitally active. Non-branch transactions also increased to 81%.

I&M Bank in Rwanda reported a 24% increase in Profit Before Tax for

the period under review. The Bank's strong performance was driven by increased economic activity in the region, with loans and deposits growing by 48% and 39% respectively, which led to growth in Net Interest Income and Non-Funded Income.

In Tanzania, the Bank recorded a Profit Before Tax of KES 309 million up from a loss of KES 689 million in 2022 on the back of strong growth in total assets of 47%, with loans and deposits growing by 45% and 55% respectively.

I&M Bank Uganda posted strong growth in operating income of 41%. Total assets reported a 44% year on year growth to close at KES 38 billion, with growth in the loans and deposits book at 53% and 38% respectively.

The Group's joint venture investment in Mauritius, Bank One, recorded a growth of 80% in Profit Before Tax year on year, driven by the growth of the loan portfolio as well as higher non-interest income.

50 Years of I&M Bank

I&M Bank celebrates its golden jubilee this year marking 50 glorious years since its incorporation in 1974. The entrepreneurial spark of the Founder and Chairman Emeritus, Mr. SBR Shah, MBS ignited a vision of greatness that has seen I&M Bank grow from a community-based lending outfit to a regional financial services Group with presence in 5 countries



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The Curse Of Iniquitous Leadership In Kenya



By: Odhiambo Jerameel Kevins Owuor
@themtkenyatimes

The ancient Somali proverb, “When the rulers are immoral, what becomes of the people they rule?” reverberates through the annals of Kenya’s contemporary history, casting a somber pall over the nation’s trajectory. This axiomatic wisdom, born from the collective experiences of generations past, serves as a poignant reminder of the inextricable link between the moral fabric of a nation’s leadership and the well-being of its people. For far too long, the scourge of iniquitous leadership has festered in Kenya, corroding the very foundations upon which the pillars of justice, equity, and the rule of law are erected.

Kenyans, the unwitting victims of this insidious malady, bear the cross of suffering wrought by the machinations of rulers who have exhibited a flagrant disregard for the principles of good governance and ethical leadership. These rulers, driven by ignorance, unconcern for the plight of their constituents, and a brazen willingness to act outside the confines of the law, have perpetuated a cycle of injustice and inequity, leaving the aspirations of the Kenyan people in tatters.

Populist rhetoric and empty promises have become the currency of these nefarious leaders, who have exploited the hopes and dreams of the masses for their own avaricious gain. Their actions have eroded public trust, undermined the rule of law, and fostered a climate of uncertainty and despair, where the fundamental rights and freedoms of the Kenyan people have been compromised.

It is incumbent upon the citizens of Kenya to break free from the shackles of this iniquitous leadership and reclaim their rightful place as the architects of their nation’s destiny. Through a concerted effort to cultivate a culture of active citizenship and civic engagement, Kenyans must hold their leaders accountable, demand transparency, and actively participate in the decision-making processes that shape their collective future. Only then can the nation begin to heal the wounds inflicted by



the scourge of immoral leadership and chart a course towards a brighter, more equitable tomorrow, where justice, equity, and the rule of law are the guiding principles that govern the land.

The consequences of this curse manifest in myriad forms, each more pernicious than the last. From the blatant disregard for the sacrosanct principles of constitutionalism and due process to the brazen subversion of the checks and balances enshrined within the hallowed halls of democracy, the actions of these depraved leaders have left an indelible stain upon the fabric of Kenyan society. As the great Kenyan writer, Ngugi wa Thiong’o, poignantly remarked, “A nation’s leaders should be the custodians of its dreams, not the harbingers of its nightmares.”

The deleterious impact of such leadership extends far beyond the realm of governance, permeating into the very core of the nation’s socio-economic fabric. The wanton plunder of public resources, facilitated by the flagrant circumvention of fiscal accountability mechanisms, has deprived Kenyans of the means to uplift themselves from the shackles of poverty and deprivation. This travesty is further compounded by the proliferation of corruption, a malignant force that has metastasized throughout the body politic, eroding public trust and undermining the foundations of justice and equity.

In the realm of human rights, the actions of these leaders have cast a long and ominous shadow. The callous disregard for the inviolable rights enshrined in the Kenyan Constitution, coupled with the unbridled use of state apparatus to suppress dissent and stifle civil liberties, has left a trail of human suffering in its wake.

As the revered South African leader, Nelson Mandela, once affirmed, “A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.”

The consequences of such leadership transcend the immediate realm, extending into the realm of intergenerational equity and environmental stewardship. The unbridled pursuit of short-term gains and the willful neglect of sustainable development practices have precipitated an environmental crisis that threatens to undermine the very foundations of Kenya’s future prosperity. As the Kenyan Nobel Laureate, Wangari Maathai, sagely observed, “We owe it to ourselves and to the next generation to conserve the environment so that we can bequeath our children a sustainable world that benefits all.”

In the face of such adversity, the clarion call for restorative justice echoes through the halls of Kenyan jurisprudence. It is a call that demands accountability, redress, and the restoration of the rule of law – a call that seeks to heal the wounds inflicted upon the nation’s psyche and chart a path towards a more equitable and just society. The pursuit of restorative justice in Kenya must be underpinned by a robust legal framework that enshrines the principles of transparency, accountability, and the inviolability of human rights. Drawing inspiration from the immortal words of the great Senegalese scholar, Cheikh Anta Diop, who declared, “To remake the human being is to remake the universe,” Kenya must embark on a journey of systemic reform, one that seeks to dismantle the very structures that have enabled and perpetuated the scourge of iniquitous leadership.

Central to this endeavor is the es-

tablishment of independent and impartial institutions, insulated from the corrosive influence of political expediency and vested interests. These institutions must be endowed with the requisite authority and resources to investigate, prosecute, and adjudicate cases of malfeasance, corruption, and human rights violations, without fear or favor. As the Kenyan jurist, Willy Mutunga, aptly stated, “The true measure of a nation’s commitment to justice lies not in the grandeur of its laws, but in the resolve with which they are enforced.”

The pursuit of restorative justice demands a comprehensive strategy for asset recovery and the repatriation of ill-gotten gains. By leveraging international cooperation mechanisms and employing robust legal frameworks, such as the United Nations Convention against Corruption, Kenya can reclaim the resources plundered by these nefarious leaders, thereby restoring the means for socio-economic development and the advancement of the collective good.

The pursuit of restorative justice in Kenya must transcend mere rhetoric and manifestos; it demands a steadfast commitment to cultivating an environment where active citizenship and civic engagement are not only encouraged but fostered as indispensable pillars of a thriving democracy. Kenyans must be empowered to hold their leaders accountable, to scrutinize their actions, and to actively participate in the decision-making processes that shape the nation’s collective destiny. This is not a mere idealistic notion but a fundamental necessity, for true democracy cannot be imposed from without; it must emanate from the hearts and minds of the people themselves, deeply rooted in their cultural

traditions and value systems.

The Ghanaian philosopher, Kwasi Wiredu, aptly captured this essence when he sagely remarked, “A people’s democracy must be rooted in their culture and traditions, for true freedom cannot be imposed from without, but must spring from within.” These words resonate with profound wisdom, reminding us that the path to genuine freedom and self-determination is not one that can be externally imposed but must be cultivated and nurtured by the people themselves, drawing strength from their rich cultural heritage and the collective aspirations that bind them together.

In this odyssey towards restorative justice, Kenya must draw inspiration from the resilience and indomitable spirit of its people, a spirit that has endured through countless trials and tribulations. The nation’s history is replete with instances where its citizens have risen above adversity, defying the odds and overcoming seemingly insurmountable challenges. It is in the crucible of these adversities that the true mettle of a nation is forged, and it is through the collective resolve of its citizens that the shackles of iniquitous leadership can be broken.

The renowned Kenyan writer, Binyavanga Wainaina, eloquently proclaimed, “We are the dream and the hope of the slave.” These powerful words encapsulate the essence of Kenya’s struggle for justice and self-determination, evoking the collective memory of a people who have endured generations of oppression and subjugation. Yet, in the face of these adversities, the indomitable spirit of the Kenyan people has persevered, fueled by the unwavering hope that a brighter, more equitable future lies ahead.

It is with this clarion call that Kenya must march forth, undeterred, towards a future where justice, equity, and the rule of law reign supreme, unshackled from the curse of iniquitous leadership. The journey may be arduous, fraught with challenges and obstacles, but it is a path that must be trodden, for it is only through the collective resolve and unwavering determination of its citizens that Kenya can truly realize its full potential as a beacon of hope, a shining example of restorative justice and democratic ideals in action.

The Writer is a lawyer and legal researcher



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Tribal Division And Campus Politics

By: **Brenda Jeptoo**

University campuses serve as an epitome of society, where students from different backgrounds come together to pursue education and engage in various activities, including student politics. However, these campuses also reflect wider societal divisions, including tribal identities, which can influence student interactions and political engagements.

Tribalism, deeply ingrained in many societies, often manifests itself in campus politics, where students align themselves with specific tribes or ethnic groups. This alignment can shape voting patterns and candidate

preferences during campus elections, leading to heightened tensions and divisions.

Campus elections serve as catalysts for tribal tensions, as students rally behind candidates perceived to represent their tribal interests. Candidates often appeal to tribal sentiments to garner support, exacerbating existing divisions among students.

Election results can further polarize campus communities, especially when candidates from dominant tribes win, leaving minority tribal groups feeling marginalized and disenfranchised. Perceptions of unfairness or bias in the electoral process can fuel resentment and anger, laying

the groundwork for potential unrest

The aftermath of campus elections can escalate into riots when tribal rivalries intensify. Inflammatory rhetoric, spread through social media and word of mouth, can stoke animosity between different tribal factions, heightening tensions on campus.

Incidents of violence, destruction of properties and intimidation may occur as students from opposing tribes clash, each seeking to assert their dominance or defend their interests. The breakdown of communication and trust exacerbates the situation, making it difficult to resolve conflicts peacefully.

University student riots disrupt ac-

ademic activities and jeopardize the safety and well-being of students, faculty, and staff, also people living around the institution. Classes may be canceled, campus facilities damaged, and the overall learning environment compromised. Moreover, the long-term consequences of such unrest can erode the sense of community and cohesion within the university.

Beyond the immediate impact on campus life, tribal conflicts can have broader societal implications, perpetuating divisions and deepening mistrust among different ethnic groups. The normalization of violence as a means of resolving disputes undermines efforts to foster unity and rec-

onciliation.

Addressing the root causes of university student riots requires a different approach that prioritizes dialogue, inclusivity, and conflict resolution. University administrations, student leaders, and community stakeholders must work together to promote inter-tribal understanding and cooperation.

Educational initiatives aimed at promoting diversity awareness and tolerance can help mitigate tribal tensions on campus. Establishing inclusive electoral processes that prioritize merit over tribal affiliations can also contribute to a more equitable and transparent student governance system and peace will reign.

The Hidden Realities Of University Cohabiting

In the glittering exterior of university life, where busy campuses academic pursuits take center stage, lies a shadowy underbelly that few dare to explore. It's a world where students, eager to taste independence, often find themselves entangled in a web of secrecy, consequences, and shattered dreams.

In the dimly lit corners of dormitories and off-campus apartments, some university students embark on clandestine journeys of cohabitation, shielded from intrusive eyes of their parents. What starts as a bid for freedom and companionship can quickly spiral into a series of tragedies, leaving scars that linger long after graduation day.

Behind closed doors, tales of heartbreak, betrayal, and despair unfold. In

the pursuit of love or companionship, students find themselves engulfed in toxic relationships, where emotional manipulation and abuse thrive in the shadows. As tensions rise and conflicts escalate, the once peaceful notion of cohabitation transforms into a battleground, with casualties that extend far beyond the physical realm.

For some, the consequences are serious. In the wake of failed relationships and shattered dreams, university campuses become haunting grounds where echoes of tragedy resonate through the halls. Cases of killings, a grim reality that shatters the illusion of safety, leave communities reeling in disbelief. Lives snuffed out in moments of rage or desperation serve as stark reminders of the darkness that lurks beneath the

surface.

Yet, the toll extends beyond the realm of physical violence. For those left behind, the scars run deep. Pregnancy, a symbol of both hope and despair, becomes a heavy burden for those unprepared to bear its weight. Dreams of academic success and career aspirations crumble under the weight of unexpected responsibilities, leaving students grappling with choices that will shape their futures in ways they never imagined.

As the spirit of failure looms large, academic pursuits take a backseat to the harsh realities of life. Dropping out of school becomes a harsh reality for some, a bitter pill to swallow in the face of unbeatable odds. Graduation ceremonies, once envisioned as mo-

ments of triumph and celebration, slip through fingers that clutch desperately at fading dreams.

In the darkest moments, the specter of despair looms large. For those overwhelmed by the weight of their circumstances, suicide becomes a haunting possibility, a final escape from a world filled with pain and regret. As lives are lost and futures extinguished, the true cost of hidden cohabitation comes into sharp focus, a stark reminder of the dangers that lurk in the shadows.

Through the lens of these tragic tales, the illusion of university life is shattered, revealing a reality far removed from the glossy images that adorn brochures and websites. It's a world where innocence is lost, and the consequences of secrecy are laid bare for

all to see.

As the sun sets on another day, the stories of university cohabitation linger in the minds of those who dare to listen. They serve as a stark reminder of the fragility of life, the power of love, and the resilience of the human spirit. And as we navigate the complexities of the world around us, may we never forget the lessons learned from those who walked the path before us, their stories etched into the fabric of our collective memory for generations to come.

Written by: Samuel Kyengo, Media student, Rongo university.

Addressing The Epidemic Of Accidents On Kenyan Roads

Kenya is grappling with a road safety crisis that continues to claim lives and wreak havoc on families across the nation. Despite efforts to curb the alarming rates of accidents, the situation remains dire, with each passing day marked by tragedy and losses statistics paint a grim picture of the state of road safety in Kenya.

According to recent reports from the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA), road accidents claim hundreds of lives every month, with thousands more sustaining serious injuries. The toll on human lives is devastating, leaving families shattered and communities reeling from the aftermath.

Many of Kenya's roads suffer from

neglect and disrepair, with potholes, inadequate signage, and poorly marked lanes posing significant hazards to motorists and pedestrians alike. The culture of impunity among some drivers perpetuates a dangerous cycle of reckless behavior on the roads. Speeding, overtaking in dangerous conditions, and driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs are all too common occurrences.

Despite existing traffic laws and regulations, enforcement remains lax in many areas, allowing errant drivers to flout the rules without fear of repercussion. This breeds a sense of lawlessness on the roads and undermines efforts to promote safer driving practices. Many Kenyan mo-

torists lack awareness of basic road safety practices, such as wearing seat belts, observing speed limits, and yielding to pedestrians.

Educational campaigns aimed at promoting responsible driving behavior are often insufficient or ineffective.

Addressing the road safety crisis in Kenya requires a multi-faceted approach involving government agencies, law enforcement, civil society organizations, and the general public. On that note, the government must prioritize infrastructure development and maintenance to ensure that roads are safe and accessible for all users.

This includes repairing potholes, installing road signs, and implement-

ing traffic calming measures. Law enforcement agencies must step up efforts to enforce traffic laws and hold reckless drivers accountable for their actions.

This includes conducting regular patrols, implementing speed traps, and conducting sobriety checkpoints. Educating the public about the importance of road safety is crucial in changing attitudes and behavior. Outreach programs, school initiatives, and media campaigns can help raise awareness about the risks of reckless driving and promote responsible habits on the road.

Engaging local communities in road safety initiatives can help foster a sense of ownership and responsibil-

ity among citizens. Community-led initiatives, neighborhood watch programs, and advocacy groups can play a vital role in promoting safer roads and reducing accidents.

The road safety crisis in Kenya demands urgent attention and concerted action from all stakeholders. By addressing the underlying causes of accidents and implementing targeted interventions, we can work together to save lives, prevent injuries, and build a safer, more resilient transportation system for future generations. The time to act is now.

Wangari Kariuki, Media student Rongo University

Mokaya Sworn In As Chief Registrar Of The Judiciary

By: Sharon Atieno and Billy Sabari

[@themtkenyatimes](#)



The new Chief Registrar of the Judiciary Winfridah Mokaya taking her Oath of office at the Supreme Court in Nairobi yesterday.

Worth Noting:

- She maintained that the Judiciary is ready to support and looks forward to collaborative efforts in pursuit of the shared vision which has been outlined in the institutional blueprint 'Social Transformation through Access to Justice (STAJ).
- Koome observed that Mokaya assumes office at a time when the judiciary has embraced the spirit of shared leadership under STAJ, and in the quest for court excellence, the judiciary has also embraced the idea of a shared responsibility to ensure excellence in the areas of assignment which contribute to the overall service delivery.
- Additionally, she stressed that the Oath will require the new Chief Registrar to serve the country to the best of her abilities insisting that the responsibilities placed upon her will also guide her on the day-to-day work.

Chief Justice Martha Koome yesterday presided over the swearing-in of Winfridah Mokaya as the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary at the Supreme Court in Nairobi.

Speaking during the occasion, Koome observed that the transition provides an opportunity for reflection about where the Judiciary is coming from and where it aims to go. She also urged Mokaya to be a champion of institutional innovation and revitalization, steering the judiciary towards remaining fit for purpose and effective in a changing environment.

The CJ noted that the office of Chief Registrar of the Judiciary is designed to be the chief administrator and accounting officer in the Judiciary, adding that the total implications of the roles bestowed on Mokaya is that she is expected to play a significant role in ensuring that the administrative and operational dynamics move seamlessly to provide an enabling and supportive environment for the judicial wing to perform its function in a conducive environment that guarantees high standards of service delivery.

"The essence of success in the new role lies in preserving the exemplary practices of the past while striving for continuous improvement in our administrative processes and responsiveness to the citizens we serve," stated Koome.

She maintained that the Judiciary is ready to support and looks forward to collaborative efforts in pursuit of the shared vision which has been outlined in the institutional blueprint 'Social Transformation through Access to Justice (STAJ).

Koome observed that Mokaya assumes office at a time when the judiciary has embraced the spirit of shared leadership under STAJ, and in the quest for court excellence, the judiciary has also embraced the idea of a shared responsibility to ensure excellence in the areas of assignment which contribute to the overall service delivery.

Additionally, she stressed that the Oath will require the new Chief Registrar to serve the country to the best of her abilities insisting that the responsibilities placed upon her will also guide her on the day-to-day work.

Mokaya said her vision 'The Road Ahead' is now clearly laid out in the STAJ's vision that was launched in 2021 followed by the Blueprint launched in November 2023 by the CJ and advocates for a people-centred approach in the administration of justice.

She termed them giants of the judiciary upon which they stand to make a commitment to serve the institution and the people of Kenya.

Further, the new Chief Registrar highlighted that she will start her role by cascading the blueprint to cultivate deeper understanding and ownership of the vision and blueprint across the judiciary, push for law reforms to address the emerging gaps in the administration of the Judiciary Fund, engage with stakeholders on the funding of access to justice as a public good, enhance resource and asset management, streamline policy to results cycle and re-image institutional administrative model to better align with the ideals of shared leadership and constitutional value of decentralization.

Further, Mokaya reiterated her commitment to pursue 100 per cent

funding by the government for access to justice, to mirror support provided to the security sector, emphasizing that the funding the Judiciary is seeking is reasonable, and should be administered as a public good.

She at the same time said that the office will embrace a clear, deliberate and robust open-door policy in engaging with internal and external stakeholders including the Kenya Magistrates and Judges Association, Kenya Judges Welfare Association, Kenya Judiciary Staff Association and the Kenya Chapter of the International Association of the Women Judges.

"I look forward to your support in ensuring that we live the ideals of the Constitution in the discharge of the Judiciary's mandate to the Kenyan people," she expressed.

Mokaya, who joined the Judiciary 27 years ago as a District Magistrate will serve as the Chief Registrar of the Judiciary for a period of five years.

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EXPONENTIAL INTERNATIONAL



Gachagua Praises President Ruto For Stabilising The Country's Economy

By: DPCS

Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua yesterday praised President William Ruto for stabilising the economy and improving the country's financial stability assuring Kenyans that promises towards improving their lives will be fulfilled.

Speaking at Nyahururu Stadium, Laikipia County during the burial service of John Ndumia Muturi, the Deputy President said the President's main agenda is to ensure better lives for all Kenyans through well-thought-out development programmes.

Mr Muturi is the spouse of Igwamiti Ward MCA Irene Wachuka.

Mr Gachagua said the president is focused, determined, full of energy and ready to fulfil all the pledges he made while campaigning for office.

"The President is keen on development and improving the lives of the people in the region. We have subsidised fertiliser, the price of unga has gone down and we are dealing with the huge debt we found. Now, we are constructing roads, dams and key projects to improve the lives of the

people," the DP said.

Mr Gachagua said as instructed by the President he has been assisting him in ensuring faster implementation of government's programmes and achievements of intended objectives.

"I have 15 years experience in the public service and another 15 years in the private sector. I was a Member of Parliament for five years. Leadership calls for experience and that is the value I bring in the Government," said the DP.

On the war against illicit brews, Mr Gachagua assured Laikipia residents he would not be distracted until the menace was fully dealt with.

"The fight against illicit brews will not stop. I am happy with the war in Laikipia because it has been going on as ordered. The administrators here led by the County Commissioner should keep up the fight. We must deal with this menace to save our people from the poison" he said.

He, further, urged the Church to continue supporting the war for it to succeed.

The Deputy President said he had been asked by the President to ensure security is beefed up in the County to enable residents go about their busi-



Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua, Laikipia County governor Joshua Irungu and MCA Irene Wachuka whose husband was being buried yesterday..

nesses without fear of being attacked by bandits.

"The President instructed me to come here and ensure security is beefed up here. I came and now order has been restored. President Ruto's administration will deal with insecur-

ity in Laikipia once and for all as we promised," he assured.

While condoling with the family for the loss, the DP said Igwamiti MCA Irene Wachuka is a strong pillar for the President and the Government and will support her during the dif-

ficult time.

"She is a reliable pillar for us. The President and I will not abandon her during this difficult time because she has been a true friend to us," he said.

Today's Guidance

By: Dipa Sharma

Note:-Greetings, I am a professional intuitive tarot card reader. My readings are based on both the cards and my intuition. It is a general and collective reading. Please take what resonate and leave the rest. If you have come across this reading this means there is some message for you.

Career:-You will find yourself juggling between numerous pending tasks, multitasking amidst a surge of energy to delay work. Despite others urging completion, some are heedless. Do not be careless; endeavor to finish all pending tasks. Some will commence new ventures, projects, or businesses, while others will grapple with seizing new opportunities or adhering to the old.

Relationship:- Today promises triumph in your relationships. A lady who previously withheld consent may now grant it in your favor. Any prior disagreements with your partner will get resolved. You will successfully establish stability within your relationship. Strive for gentleness in your exchanges, brushing aside minor disputes, to ensure a day abundant with joy and unity.

Health:- At the onset of the day, there may be a sense of longing for healing. In the morning, you might experience a downturn and lingering conflict. However, as the day unfolds, taking proactive steps toward improving your health will lead to a gradual upliftment. Some may embark on overseas travel for medical treatment or vaccination, preparing for future journeys. Amidst

a challenging phase, recovery and rejuvenation await, signaling a time to release negativity and prioritize well-being. Valuable lessons gleaned from past health challenges will serve as guiding lights for the future.

Message from Lord Krishna:-

In the journey of life, there are moments when the burdens of a situation weigh heavily upon you, my dear one. It may be a job, a cherished relationship, a living arrangement, or a once-thriving project that now fills your heart with bitterness instead of the joy it once brought. Remember, when you embarked upon this path, it consumed your thoughts and energies, and you poured your essence into it, envisioning something wondrous. Yet, as time passed, it has become a source of pain rather than fulfillment.

Tarot, Zodiac, Astrology & Horoscopes

How will be your day today:-



Know that it is not cowardice to step away from that which no longer serves your higher purpose. Sometimes, the greatest act of strength is in recognizing when it is time to release and move forward. Trust in the wisdom of your heart, for it knows when it is time to bid farewell to the old and welcome the new. Surrender to the flow of life's divine plan, and

you shall find peace and renewal on your path.

Important numbers:- 2,3,5,6,7,8,10,13,20,22

Important colour:- Green, Yellow, Blue, White .

Use Technology To Address Teachers Shortage, Says KICD Boss

By: James Wakahiu
@themkenyatimes

The shortage of teachers in learning institutions can be addressed adequately through the use of technology that enhances distance learning, Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) Chairman Prof Simon Gicharu has said.

“The deficit of teachers in the country is a big challenge because the population is increasing and the government is unable to employ all the teachers. The best way to address this issue lies in technology,” said Gucharu.

He spoke while launching newly acquired digital teaching screen boards at Mount Kenya University (MKU) that will be used to enhance lecturer-student interaction virtually.

The 18 devices were acquired from China at a cost of KSh28 million.

“These displays allow a lecturer to incorporate a range of useful apps or teaching aids that support in simplifying different concepts in class, hence enabling a lecturer to be more effective in training students virtually,” he added.

Gicharu, who is also the MKU Board of Directors chairman, observed that

the traditional model of “brick and mortar universities” will most likely be replaced by Open Universities that offer programmes through virtual platforms and retain only small administrative offices.

He added: “I want to say that the same way we remember with nostalgia the technology of the 80’s is the same way our current technology will be viewed four decades to come,

“As a University, we need to ensure that we are alive to where the world is going, embrace technological transformations, and some changes that may be unpopular including adoption of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) concept.”

He maintained that the digital transformation agenda will be embraced in all Open and Distance Electronic Learning (ODEL) platforms and that MKU students will be among the first in the country to benefit from this technology.

“We expect that these interactive displays will be fully integrated in our training in Thika main campus and also in all our campuses and ODEL centers. We are fully committed to ensure that our students have the best learning experience,” the Chairman stated.

The Vice-Chancellor Prof Deogratius Jaganyi said it is high time for MKU to fully embrace the fourth



KICD Boss, Prof. Simon Gicharu demonstrates the use of digital screen at MKU Main Campus, Thika

industrial revolution by entrenching technology mediated modalities of teaching and learning in order to meet the needs and expectations of the current generation.

“MKU has already embraced digital transformation and we are well aware that pacing up growth in digital technologies will give us a competitive advantage in a turbulent and highly competitive higher education environment,” stated the VC.

He noted that the interactive screens will support content delivery and enhance interaction between the students and their lecturers.

“I also note that the interactive displays will be useful in supporting collaborations, conferencing and presentations for postgraduate students hence promoting a vibrant research ecosystem in the University. All this will go a long way towards enhancing the transformative quality

of teaching in e-learning and conferencing experiences at MKU,” Prof Jaganyi added.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor Academic and Research Affairs Dr Marceline Kamande said the university has more than 12,000 learners using online platforms who will immensely benefit from the digital interactive displays.

New Committee Appointed To Evaluate Thika City Status

By: MKT Correspondent
@themkenyatimes

Kiambu Governor Kimani Wamatangi has made significant changes to the committee responsible for assessing Thika’s city status eligibility, removing six of the original seven members.

In an official gazette notice released last Friday, Governor Wamatangi announced the appointment of a new panel of evaluators, demonstrating his ongoing commitment to push for Thika’s city status by the end of the year.

Speaking during an event in Githunguri, the county boss stated that he had formed a select committee made up of experts from different professional organizations such as the Architects Association of Kenya, the Law Society of Kenya, the Association of Urban Areas and Cities, the Kenya Institute of Planners, the

Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Institute of Surveyors of Kenya, and members of the business community in Kiambu to assess the municipality’s capacities.

Sylviah Mueni Kasanga of the Architects Association of Kenya, Gitu Kahengeri of the Law Society of Kenya, and Zachary Ng’ang’a Mwaura of the Association of Urban Areas and Cities have been selected, according to the announcement.

T. G. Ndongoro from the Kenya Institute of Planners, Jeanter W. Wari-gia from the Institute of Certified Public Accountants of Kenya, and Julius Macharia Chege from the Institute of Surveyors of Kenya have also been appointed to the committee, with Cecilia Wamaitha representing the business community.

Governor Wamatangi had originally appointed a different set of individuals in November 2022. The seven newly appointed members began their one-year term yesterday.



Kiambu County governor Kimani Wamatangi in Githunguri last week

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Tanzania FCC In Renewed Regional Efforts To Combat Cross-Border Trade In Counterfeit Goods

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

The Anti-Counterfeit Authority (ACA) and the Fair Competition Commission (FCC) of Tanzania has announced a renewed partnership aimed at intensifying its efforts to disrupt and combat the trade in counterfeit goods across the region.

The collaboration was formalized during a benchmarking and collaboration session, where a delegation from the Fair Competition Commission of Tanzania visited Kenya. Both institutions, mandated to combat counterfeiting and illicit trade while promoting fair trade practices, underscored the importance of concerted regional action in addressing this growing challenge.

Against the backdrop of enhanced bilateral talks between Kenya and Tanzania, the two East African economic powerhouses are focusing on strengthening trade relations and overcoming barriers that impede their commercial ties.

Counterfeit and illicit products pose significant threats to economic stability, public health, and safety, not only within the region but also globally. Current trade between Kenya and Tanzania stands at Ksh 90 billion annually. According to the OECD's 2018 report, counterfeiting represents one of the largest criminal enterprises globally, with estimated domestic and international sales ranging from \$1.7 trillion to \$4.5 trillion annually, surpassing even drug trafficking and human trafficking in scale.

Regional assessments by the International Peace Institute indicate an annual market share of Ksh. 180 billion for counterfeit trading within the East African Community as of 2017. In Kenya alone, counterfeit trading was valued at Ksh 70 billion in 2017, reaching Ksh 90 billion in 2029, rivaling key sectors like tourism, tea, and coffee – traditionally top earners for the country.

During the event, Dr. Robi Mbugua Njoroge, Executive Director of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority, stressed the urgent need to address the counterfeit menace, highlighting the det-



Dr. Robi Mbugua Njoroge, Executive Director of the Anti-Counterfeit Authority with his counterpart from Tanzania Mr. William Ero..

rimental impacts on the economy, investor confidence, and innovation.

Echoing the sentiment, Mr. William Ero, Director General of the Fair

Competition Commission, emphasized the patriotic duty shared by both agencies to stand for fair and open trade, ensuring economic growth and

prosperity across their nations.

Kioni: We Want Issues Touching On Mount Kenya Addressed In Limuru 3

By: John Kariuki
@themtkenyatimes

Jubilee Party Secretary General Jeremiah Kioni has hinted at yet another political alignment which he calls the Limuru 3 in which he says issues touching on the Mount Kenya region will be adequately addressed. According to Kioni, the people of Mount Kenya are currently faced with imminent threats politically, socially and even economically. Kioni believes the Limuru 3 will be an ideal avenue for agenda-setting and reviving the voice of the Mountain in calling for equality, good governance and respect of the rule of law.

“Our community is under siege and is facing the risk of getting poorer by day due to over-taxation of avocado, macadamia, goats, and sheep et al, collapse of the education system,

closure of businesses due to harsh economic environment among other factors. The purpose of Limuru 3 is therefore to discuss those issues affecting us as a community because we are under siege economically, culturally as well as being politically under threat. A community without a political vehicle is a very poor community. The idea of Limuru 3 has been hatched by some Kenyans, eminent persons, and elders,” Kioni noted.

Kioni also called for Deputy President Rigathi Gachagua to do a thorough public apology to the family of former President Uhuru Kenyatta for his utterances which did not auger well and were perceived as being disrespectful, especially to Mama Ngina Kenyatta.



Jubilee SG Jeremiah Kioni

SPORTS NEWS

PHOTOS
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BREAKING NEWS



Sports >> *Harambee Stars head coach Engin Firat says the match against Zimbabwe today evening will be a different affair with the experience they had against hosts Malawi on Saturday.

Firat Confident But Cautious Ahead Of Zimbabwe Clash



Harambee Stars coach Engin Firat

Harambee Stars head coach Engin Firat says the match against Zimbabwe today evening will be a different affair with the experience they had against hosts Malawi on Saturday.

Kenya humbled The Flames 0-4 in the semifinal of the four-nation tournament, to book a date with Zimbabwe which edged 2014 African Champions Zambia on penalties after a 2-2 draw in regulation time.

But Firat is cautious, saying his boys must be ready for a different challenge from a different opponent, if they are to end the Ma-

lawi trip on a high. "Even if you win 4-0, you have to be humble lest it makes your team more relaxed. Then, a team which comes from 2-0 to 2-2 has more motivation and belief, which they (Zimbabwe) did against Zambia. Therefore, we will see tomorrow (Tuesday)," said Firat.

The coach did not reveal if he would change his lineup which started against Malawi. In the match, captain Michael Olunga scored two while Ayub Timbe and John Avire scored one each to complete the rout. At the same time, the coach who is using the

matches to sharpen Harambee Stars ahead of the 2026 World Cup qualifiers in June, is optimistic of staging inspiring shows against Burundi and Ivory Coast, whom they are set to host in Nairobi. "There are two components about it; one is tactical part - how we develop the team tactically matters. The second part is the team which I will have in June. Like I said in the press conference before, these teams here are not Morocco or Senegal, they don't have at least 25 top players. "So, it depends, if one key player is missing, it will affect the entire

team a lot. Therefore, if I put this team together and they are mentally ready we will have good result in June. Firat has in the meantime asked the government to do all it can to have Nyayo Stadium ready for the double home matches in the June window. Currently, the Stadium has not met the required FIFA standards for class A matches, while the other alternative MISC Kasarani is now shut in preparations for AFCON 2027.

Citizen Sports

GET THE BEST OF WORLD

Sports >> *Brazil is unparalleled when it comes to footballing success and fervour, and for many the sport itself is synonymous with the Brazilian national team.

Pele To Endrick: Five Teen Talents That Lit Up Brazil



Brazil's striker Endrick celebrates on the final whistle in the international friendly football match between England and Brazil at Wembley stadium in north London on March 23, 2024. Brazil won the game 1-0. (Photo by Ben Stansall / AFP).

Brazil is unparalleled when it comes to footballing success and fervour, and for many the sport itself is synonymous with the Brazilian national team.

The five-times World Cup winners are renowned for their "jogo bonito" philosophy and reputation of churning out the world's most talented players, the latest being 17-year-old starlet Endrick who scored against England on Saturday.

AFP Sport highlights five teenagers who have donned the famous yellow jersey:

- Endrick -

The latest off the national production line of extravagantly talented attackers, Endrick made history at the home of football Wembley when he scored the winner for Brazil against England on Saturday in just his third international appearance.

Aged 17 years, eight months and two days, Endrick became the youngest male goalscorer for club or country at the stadium when he opened his account for the Selecao nine minutes after coming off the

bench in the 1-0 victory.

The Real Madrid-bound forward is already a two-time Brazilian Serie A champion and has been hailed as the country's new golden boy since making his debut for Palmeiras at the tender age of 16.

"If he keeps up the attitude he has shown up to now, he will be a very important name in Brazilian football and world football," said Brazil coach Dorival Junior.

- Pele -

The late Pele remains the eternal benchmark against whom all new Brazilian stars are inevitably compared.

He became Brazil's youngest ever goalscorer at 16 years, eight months and 14 days and went on to net 77 times for his country -- the second most in Selecao yellow.

His international career was marked by World Cup glory, winning the country's first title in Sweden 1958 aged 17 before earning a second and third Jules Rimet trophy in 1962 and 1970.

- Ronaldo -

Ronaldo made his debut for Brazil in 1994 and became the country's third youngest ever goalscorer when he netted against Iceland aged 17 years, seven months and 12 days.

After a heartbreaking loss in the 1998 World Cup final when he fell mysteriously ill before kick-off, the striker made amends four years later in South Korea/Japan scoring both goals in the final against Germany as Brazil claimed a record fifth world title.

A legend of the game across the globe, Ronaldo earned 99 caps and scored 62 goals across a 17-year international career.

- Neymar -

The greatest goalscorer in the history of the Selecao, with 79 goals in 128 games, Neymar is likely coming to the end of his career with the national team but, despite not yet delivering a sixth World Cup, he has lived up to the hype since making his international bow aged 18.

With the weight of the country on his shoulders as Brazil hosted the 2014 World Cup, Neymar was

imperious and scored four goals in five matches.

But disaster struck in the quarter-finals when he was injured against Colombia and without their talisman, the hosts then crumbled to a 7-1 defeat to Germany in the semi-finals.

- Alexandre Pato -

In most cases, the weight of football expectations in the seventh largest country on earth is too great for young shoulders to bear. One such example of this was the promising Alexandre Pato.

When Pato scored the winner as an 18-year-old debutant seconds after coming off the bench against Sweden in 2008 - the country a teenage Pele led Brazil to World Cup victory against 50 years prior - many could not resist making the comparison.

But it was not to be and the fleet-footed centre-forward would go on to win just 27 caps, his last coming in 2013 at only 24 years of age.

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The Educational System Of Uzbekistan As A Factor Promoting The Country's Development



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Worth Noting:

- “Providing education with qualified personnel, increasing the professional knowledge of employees, creating all conditions for the realization of their abilities is the main factor of accelerating the scientific process” (* Islam Karimov. “Uzbekistan is on the verge of independence”. Tashkent 2011.)
- The more conditions, opportunities, and incentives there are in the field of education, the more great inventors, scientists, enlightened thinkers such as Abdulla Qadiri, Avloni, Cholpon, Fitrat and great scholars will grow among the youth of the future generation. takes Currently, a lot of research and organizational work is being carried out effectively in the field of education in our country.



The Educational System Of Uzbekistan .

Abstract: This article describes the reforms being carried out in the field of education, the opportunities given to young people and the comprehensive support of young people.

Key words: Development, qualified staff, state scholarships, privilege, opportunities, young people of the future generation, teacher, potential.

Of course, education is not only a field that has a great impact on the development of the country, but also shows the international status of the country. First of all, what is the role of the teacher in the society, what is the level of imparting knowledge, is taken into account. Only if the teacher is knowledgeable and skilled, he can train the youth of the future generation as mature and qualified personnel. Therefore, The development of state education development is closely related to the teacher. Only if the education system is good, the state will gain fame and be protected. That is why it is said that “Education protects the country better than a guard soldier.” After all, if a

guard soldier protects the nation, the people, a teacher gives knowledge to an entire society.

He contributes to the development of the state and encourages the future generation to do the same. As it is said in our country, “Action without cost is equal to -0”, the best investment is an investment in the field of education. The field of education is the fastest and easiest way to introduce the country to the whole world.

“Providing education with qualified personnel, increasing the professional knowledge of employees, creating all conditions for the realization of their abilities is the main factor of accelerating the scientific process” (* Islam Karimov. “Uzbekistan is on the verge of independence”. Tashkent 2011.)

The more conditions, opportunities, and incentives there are in the field of education, the more great inventors, scientists, enlightened thinkers such as Abdulla Qadiri, Avloni, Cholpon, Fitrat and great scholars will grow among the youth of the future generation. takes Currently, a lot of research and organizational

work is being carried out effectively in the field of education in our country.

Convenience and conditions for students to master their specialty at the initiative of our country's president, international and state scholarships:

Namedor Scholarship,
Presidential Scholarship,
Mayor Scholarship,
Zulfiyakhanim Scholarship,
Suyuma Ganiyeva scholarship and similar opportunities have been established. In addition, in order to increase the logical and intellectual intelligence of young people, “Zakovat”, “Young Reader”, “Enlightenment Field” and Science Olympiads were organized. Within the framework of the competition, it is also planned to encourage the winners and actively seeking young people both materially and spiritually.

“The experience of developed countries clearly shows that a country that spares nothing for science prospers and that such a country gathers all the good things - both people's energy and material and technical resources.” (* Islam Kari-

mov. “O “Uzbekistan is on the verge of independence”. Tashkent 2011)

The most important foundation of cultural-spiritual and all-round development is the education system. Because it is impossible to improve the country and society without training personnel who meet the requirements of the time, who have firmly mastered the achievements of science and technology. Under the leadership of the President of Uzbekistan, a new version of the Law “On Education” adopted on August 29, 1997 and a new version of the National Personnel Training Program were created in the field of education.

“Uzbekistan has accumulated a strong potential that combines the traditions of sufficient results in training qualified personnel, ensuring the scientific, cultural, and educational development of the population. Therefore, preserving the positive experiences accumulated in the field of higher education in Uzbekistan and content enrichment has become an extremely serious task of taking its rightful place in the world's educational fields.” (* (azkurs.org website.)

At the moment, practical reforms are being carried out in our country within the framework of the “Reforms and exchange of experience for the development of education” programs between Uzbekistan and the CIS member states. Accordingly, young people and experts in their professions are visiting from foreign countries and exchanging experience in education in every field. We young people should use these opportunities effectively. All the opportunities created by our country's president show that we are the foundation of the future of the youth...

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